

Keeping You Posted

VOL. 27 NO. 1

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1992



Paul Childress Photo, Missouri Conservationist, Sept. 1991

'A time to plant . . .'

Members of the Dolphin Defenders plant flowers in "The Promised Land," one of four wildlife habitat areas planted on vacant lots near Dignity House, a United Church Neighborhood House in St. Louis. See related story on page 7.

Inside KYP:

- Rising Medicaid costs will be felt by UCC institutions, page 2*
- Theology Forum: Put love into play, page 3*
- Bigger tax bite for clergy, page 4*
- National youth events this summer, page 5*
- Pastoral counseling: who's covered?, page 6*
- Pre-retirement seminars, page 8*

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION LIBRARY
BERKELEY, CA 94709

FEB 10 1992

Cut backs will hurt UCC institutions

President Bush signed into law in December legislation with the arcane title, "The Medicaid Voluntary Contribution and Provider Specific Tax Amendment of 1991," which could result in cutbacks of Federal dollars to hospitals and nursing homes, including those related to the UCC.

"It's too early to tell," says Richard Ellerbrake, president of Deaconess Health System in St. Louis, "but we hope Federal funds will be there for low income people, especially mothers and children."

At issue is a change in the way states receive Medicaid money from Washington. For every dollar a state spends on Medicaid, the Federal government contributes on the average an additional 50 cents.

In a deal struck between the Bush Administration, the National Governors' Association and Congress, states are prohibited after Sept. 30, 1992, from using voluntary contributions to increase federal matching funds for state Medicaid programs. In at least 18 state hospital associations, money borrowed from hospitals is loaned to the state, which uses it to increase the federal match. The loan is then repaid and the balance used for patient care.

The feds protested that such paper transactions are merely ways to tap the national treasury while not directly increasing state-funded support for the Medicaid program.

Hospital administrators say states are stuck in a catch-22 situation in which Washington has mandated expansion of Medicaid rolls but refuses to allow states to raise money through borrowed funds. States have been hard-pressed to find new sources of tax support.

After September, each state will have to come up with new ways to finance Medicaid. The major option is a broad-based tax on hospitals and other institutional providers, such as nursing homes, according to Bryan Sickbert, executive director of the UCC Council for Health and Human Service Ministries.

Under the previous system, funds raised could be substantial. Ellerbrake notes that Missouri raised \$10 million to help Deaconess care for



Deaconess Media Services, © 1991

Changes in Federal tax laws means that states and health care institutions like UCC-related Deaconess Hospital in St. Louis may have to come up with new ways to finance the care of Medicaid patients.

Medicaid patients through the Voluntary Contribution programs of 1991 and 1992. In addition to other Medicaid patients, the hospital served about 8,000 Medicaid mothers and babies in that period.

"Now each state legislature, including Missouri's, will have to find other ways to raise public funds for the care of Medicaid patients," he says.

But Ellerbrake and others worry that whatever tax programs states devise may never pay for the escalating cost of caring for Medicaid patients. Medicaid expenditures have ballooned from \$25 million in 1980 to \$71 million in 1990. And costs could double in four years. In a recession, state legislatures will be reluctant to impose new taxes, and the sick and injured should not be burdened with special provider fees to pay for what is a larger societal problem, he says.

Ellerbrake suggests that the law will, however, spread provider taxes to suburban hospitals regardless of how few Medicaid patients they serve.

"The law prohibits any relationship between the taxes and the number of Medicaid patients served by any provider," he notes.

He also believes the controversy will help spur debate on reforming the national health system, which he insists does not now allow everyone to achieve the quality of life available to some.

There are 24 million Americans covered by Medicaid but 35 million uninsured by anyone, according to Public Citizen, a consumer group.

Keeping You Posted
UCC Office of Communication
700 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1100

Keeping You Posted is published in January/February, April, June, September and November for clergy and lay leaders of the United Church of Christ by the Office of Communication (216) 736-2222.

Put love into play and watch the effect

by Donna Schaper

"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ . . ."

— Eph. 4:12-13 (NRSV)

"Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your

cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me. By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life."

— Psalm 42:7-8 (NRSV)

Every Christian has a different gift: equipping the saints is the task of the ordained one. This job has been described as that of preaching the word and delivering the sacrament. It has also been described as afflicting the comfortable and comforting the afflicted.

One coffee klatch will decide that the minister is too interested in Congress' failure to pass an energy bill again this year. They will declare with total self-righteousness that the lack of an energy bill has nothing whatsoever to do with the Christian gospel — until they visit a loved one whose cancer derives from ozone depletion.

Other people will make fun of pastors who spend all their time counseling individuals, as though the care of the soul had anything to do with the care and future of the earth, as though private counseling could stop the abuse by clergy of their parishioners or the abuse of the Kurds in Iraq.

Every minister can be made fun of for being too private or too public, for not saying the right thing at the right time, for not equipping the saints properly. Rather than ask, "Why would anyone want to be an ordained minister under these circumstances?" it is better to continue on the road to understanding what equipment we have.

You equip the saints by loving them more than they love you. You equip the saints by loving them more than you can love them. You borrow the love of God, that love which fills your own heart, and you love beyond any capacity you ever thought you had to love.

The best description I know of equipping the saints is that of a wave at a football or baseball game. Nobody knows how it starts. But all of a sudden, you realize you are part of it. It doesn't matter who started it.



Schaper

Ordained clergy like to think they start the waves, but that's not always true. There is a positive feedback loop: you see the difference between power and effect. In the matter of love, we have no power really, but we can see a big effect if we put what love we have into play.

Ministry is like that wave: if you put love into play, watch the effect. The opposite is not true: if you put the negative into play, it doesn't grow into a massive wave. It putters and sputters and poisons and dies out.

Thomas Merton, the great Catholic mystic, wrote that our struggle as priests is that of becoming not patchwork but a whole, unified piece. He said that the forces trying to disunify the equipping of the saints are so strong that we are always being chopped up into little pieces. This, he said, is the stress we feel as clergy.

Stress is the result of trying to conform to something outward, to the public ministry fans or the private ministry fans or just the awesome need of human beings. The opposite of stress is unity, deep inward unity, God given unity, health which derives from the Anglo-Saxon word "hal," or wholeness.

Stress divides and chops and fails to realize that with God, public and private, inner and outer, body and soul, matter and spirit are all unified. They cannot be separated if we are to equip the saints. If we have people who are too concerned about the external world, we must point them inward, and vice versa.

To be the whole, unified piece, not patchwork, to equip the saints for their own unity as human beings: this is the work of the pastor.

Imagine two rivers. Confluence is the word that describes the unity of rivers. When we speak of the confluence of two rivers, we conjure up the smell of dark bottom land, the rumble of mysterious currents where water meets water.

To stand at a confluence is to watch life coming together. Confluence is a deep intuition that one's own life coheres with other life.

Long before Mark Twain, people felt the lure of rivers. The ancient psalmist sat at the Uplands Waters in Israel saying, "Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts."

In ordained ministry, deep calls to deep. The object is not to be loved but rather to love. The equipment is the love of God in action, like a wave, causing a contagious mixture of depth and unity and love to co-mingle.

Donna Schaper is the pastor of First Congregational UCC, Riverhead, N.Y.

Tax bite could be bigger for clergy

Changes in the 1991 federal tax laws, particularly in the area of professional expenses, could mean higher income taxes for clergy, warns Manfred Holck, tax consultant to the UCC Pension Boards.

The changes have to do with the way the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) interprets rules on professional expenses. In 1991, for example, unreimbursed professional expenses are no longer 100 percent deductible. You can only deduct that excess which is over 2 percent of your adjusted gross income, according to Holck, who is an ordained minister as well as a tax expert.

In addition, he says, the IRS is reinforcing a rule defining gross income for clergy against which unreimbursed expenses may be deducted. For example, if a minister receives a \$30,000 salary, of which \$14,000 is a housing allowance, then 47 percent (the percent of the total that is housing) is tax exempt. Under IRS rules, 47 percent of unreimbursed expenses are not deductible.

Although it's too late to do anything about 1991 taxes, Holck advises that to avoid paying more taxes than necessary in future years, parish clergy negotiate their 1992 compensation packages to include reimbursement for all professional expenses. Holck and other tax experts say the goal is to eliminate

unreimbursed professional expenses entirely.

"The tax cards are stacked against you if expenses come out of your pocket," Holck says.

Ministers and their church boards should decide exactly what defines professional expenses and how they should be paid: advances, allowances or reimbursements. Holck cautions against lump sums, say for a car.

"Itemize the mileage and get reimbursed by the church," he says, "because any excess must be returned or the entire reimbursement will be treated as additional taxable income."

If wages and reimbursement are combined, the reimbursement amount must be specifically identified and made in a separate payment.

Under these new provisions, ministers will no longer have to itemize business deductions to the IRS, but only to their church. Careful records, however, must be kept and submitted to the church.

For a more complete analysis of 1991 tax changes and a guide to filling out the famous Federal form 1040, refer to the Pension Boards' annual videotape, "Line by Line." It is now available from every conference office and features a commentary by Holck, along with a printed copy of the federal forms as seen on the video. All UCC clergy also have received from the Stewardship Council the booklet, "Minister's Income Tax Guide for 1991."

New-church pastors seek, share tips

Members of **Mayflower UCC in Naples, Fla.**, ignore the smell of onions and bread cooked the day before as they sit in their makeshift pews of cafeteria chairs in anticipation of pastor Mark L. Burns' sermon. The Lely Elementary School cafeteria will have to do until Burns and his 65-member congregation can raise enough money to build their own church building.

Fund raising and membership growth were two of the topics discussed by Burns and ministers like him at a five-day seminar for 19 pastors of new church starts, sponsored by the UC Board for Homeland Ministries' Division of Evangelism and Local Church Development.

The Homeland Board has been offering these training sessions since 1983. Participants' attendance is funded through the board's Ten-Year Church Development Program.

When it comes to finding the money to build or purchase a site, go with the pros, explains John W. Mingus, secretary for church development for the Homeland Board. He suggests ministers use the services of the Homeland Board's Local Church Finance Advisory Services, which he says is highly skilled in capital fund raising.

The Homeland Board's revolving loan fund also offers loans for new church construction.

But before collecting money, it's important to build up the congregation, Mingus says.

"There is a 'Field of Dreams' syndrome. Some believe if they build a church, members will come. This is untrue," Mingus says.

"Churches grow because they are committed to sharing the good news about Jesus Christ."

Attracting new members has proven to be one of the major challenges these pastors face.

"I can't blame them (the public) for wanting to belong to an established church," Burns says.

"What holds people back is the commitment expected in time, talent and treasure."

To build a congregation, "you've got to knock on doors," says Paul Sadler, secretary for ethnic and minority church development for the Homeland Board. The best way to get the word out about a new church is through 'cold calling,' " Sadler adds. Pastors can seek out potential members by purchasing a mailing list, using census information or through city directories.

Once contact is made with a future member, "listen for where that person is in his or her own search for meaning and journey of faith," says R. Alan Johnson, UCBHM's secretary for evangelism and membership growth. "We must train our ears to hear, our mouths to speak from the heart and our hands to invite and welcome."

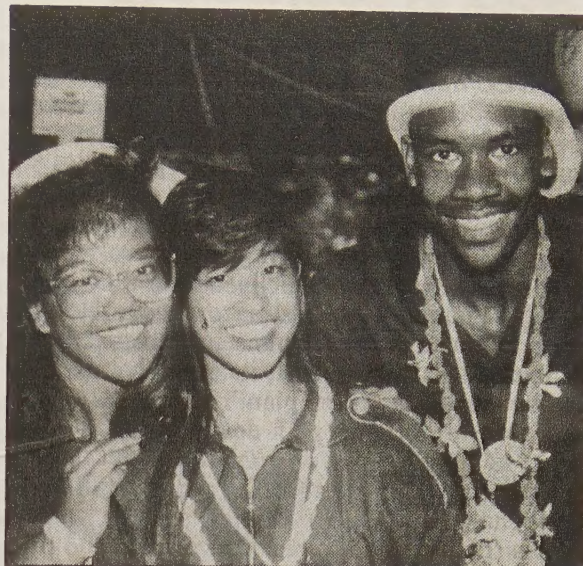
Two youth events planned for summer

Because two national-level UCC youth events will overlap this summer, organizers plan to link them through jet travel and fiber optics.

The National Youth Event, coordinated by UC Board for Homeland Ministries, is scheduled for July 9-13 at UCC-related Beloit (Wis.) College. A national youth gathering sponsored by United Black Christians is set for July 7-11 at UCC-related Dillard College alongside other UCC racial and ethnic group meetings in New Orleans that week.

Most youths, of course, will have to choose one or the other. But arrangements are being made for some leaders of the National Youth Event to go to New Orleans first for most of the UBC event, then fly to Beloit, says Gordon Svoboda II, UCBHM's youth and young adult programs specialist. And on Friday, July 10, some of the participants in each place plan to link up for dialogue through a commercially arranged audio-video teleconference.

For more details on the National Youth Event, contact your conference office. For more on the UBC event, contact UBC President Patricia Eggleston, 337 S. Michigan, No. 1242, Chicago, IL 60604; (312) 786-9205.



UC Board for Homeland Ministries Photo

UCC youth from across the United States will gather in Beloit, Wis., for the 1992 National Youth Event, coordinated by the Homeland Board. A few days before, many UCC youth will also attend a national event sponsored by United Black Christians at Dillard College in New Orleans.

Columbus quincentenary:

UCC groups plan special observances

With the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas at hand, recent calls for "repentance and renewal" issued by the General Synod and other UCC bodies are turning into actions.

UCC interest groups and conferences are among those observing the quincentenary with special events. And for people who want to do likewise, or to study the issue, help is available.

Leading the way are the UCC's racial and ethnic groups. Cooperating with several UCC instrumentalities, they got a year's jump on the issue by gathering in October 1991 for a four-day consultation titled, "After 500 Years: What is Our Reality?" The meeting focused on the colonialism that followed Columbus and what its implications have been, both for America's people of color today and for their ancestors.

Those groups — the Council for American Indian Ministries, the Council for Hispanic Ministries, Pacific Island and Asian American Ministries and United Black Christians — will focus on the issue again at a first-of-its-kind event July 8-13 in New Orleans. Columbus' legacy will be a common theme there, when the four groups, plus the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries, hold meetings simultaneously, with some common events planned.

Another large effort will happen in the region that has the most UCC American Indian churches. Reconciliation will be the theme at a first-ever joint meeting of the North Dakota and South Dakota conferences and two American Indian bodies — the Fort Berthold Council of Congregational Christian Churches and the Dakota Association — July 17-19 in Mobridge, S.D.

Other conferences also have special events on their agendas. Among them are New York, which plans a workshop at its annual meeting in June in Oswego, N.Y.; and Connecticut, which has invited Native American spiritualists to join in a day of worship and fellowship on Oct. 11, the Sunday of Columbus Day weekend, in Rocky Hill, Conn.

For ideas on how to observe and study the issue, request a source packet from the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministry, 122 W. Franklin Ave., Rm. 304, Minneapolis, MN 55404; (612) 870-8679. Also, UC Board for Homeland Ministries is compiling a list of people available to speak on the issue. For details, contact Cynthia Ikuta, American Missionary Association, UCBHM, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115-1100; (216) 736-3280.

Pastoral counseling, insurance: who's covered?

Which kinds of counseling will qualify for health insurance coverage is an issue affecting many UCC ministers and other employees — those who belong to The Pension Boards' health plan as well as those who do pastoral counseling.

In most cases, the Pension Boards' plan does not cover pastoral counseling. Cost is the reason, says Ed Tortora, the Pension Boards' secretary for member relations. He says people involved with the church are more inclined than the general population to seek a pastoral counselor.

"Even though pastoral counseling costs less per hour than a psychiatrist, its extensive use would put a drain on the plan," Tortora says.

The Pension Boards' plan does cover 50 percent of the expenses of some forms of counseling. Psychiatrists (M.D.) are covered. So are psychologists (Ph.D.). Clinical social workers (LISW) are covered if recommended by an M.D. Payment for covered expenses due to a mental or nervous disorder is limited to \$2,000 per calendar year and \$50,000 lifetime.

Also, the Pension Board plan's Hospice Care Benefit covers pastoral counseling for the dying patient and his or her spouse and children during bereavement. Payment for bereavement counseling is limited to 50 percent for no more than 15 visits per family.

Pastoral counselor and UCC minister M. Taylor Bach of Cincinnati's Counseling Institute, Inc., finds that an increasing number

of insurance companies are covering pastoral counseling, but he adds, "They're offering less coverage — limiting coverage to eight to 14 visits, and lots of people need more than that."

Often, insurance companies do not see pastoral counseling as a viable source of therapy, Bach says. "They have no idea of the extensive training we've had," he says, "and there is a relative newness of pastoral counseling as a specialty."

All UCC pastoral counselors are accredited by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, formed in 1963. The minimum requirements for accreditation are an M.Div. degree; 375 hours of pastoral counseling, a portion of which is supervised by a pastoral counselor or another mental health professional; endorsement as a minister in good standing in a recognized religious body; and one unit of clinical pastoral education.

Alan DeCourcy, a UCC minister with Therapeutic Services Inc. in Fairfield, Ohio, says his services are covered by at least 70 percent of his clients' insurance companies.

DeCourcy, explaining what sets pastoral counselors apart from others in the counseling field, says, "I'm trained to have an awareness of and sensitivity to the religious and spiritual dimensions to what clients are struggling with, as well as the psychological."

Opposing Views

Verify statistics

In the article "Where have all the members gone?" (Oct. 1991) my mind was struck by the quote "62 percent of American adults who attend church once a week." Could you verify the statistics and their meaningfulness for pastors and congregations struggling to remain viable?

Richard R. Stouffer, pastor (UCC)
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Community Church, Urbana, Ill.

(Editor's note: Here are the statistics, according to the Barna Research Group: 85 percent of American adults identify themselves as Christian. Of this group, three out of four, or 62 percent of all American adults, attend church in a typical month. Four out of 10 people who describe themselves as Christian, or 34 percent of all adults, usually attend church every week. Among church attenders, 80 percent claim formal membership.)

Strong youth program necessary

I agree with Elizabeth Nordbeck's comment in "Where have all the members gone?" (Oct. 91) that the "lack of a strong youth program" is a contributing factor to membership loss.

It would be comfortable for local congregations, with an average age of 57, to

ignore youth program development. Youth work is incredibly demanding in energy, warmth and wit. Yet if it had not been for vital programs led by compassionate and energetic advisors, I would not be a minister and would probably not be attending a church.

It's time to reconsider our priorities. We ought to sponsor intercultural youth exchanges, empower our camping programs and treat local youth ministry as a high and valued calling. There is no shortage of young people, only a power failure.

Eric A. Bing
Sheffield Lake, Ohio

UCC needs hymnal

It seems to me that one of the problems that the UCC has had since its birth has been the problem of identity. Using a different hymnal (Methodist, Word, Inc., and there are others) only makes matters worse.

We need to use the UCC logo and denominational materials. The UCC must produce "good stuff" that we can use and be proud of.

Charles F. Williman, pastor
St. Paul's UCC
Attica, N.Y.

Priorities Report

Integrity of Creation, Justice & Peace

They live in the inner-city, number 55 strong, range in age from 9 to 12 years, go by the name "Dolphin Defenders" and are the most unlikely group of environmentalists you may ever meet.

For these kids, free time means planting trees, collecting glass, cans and tires for recycling, cleaning up litter, donating the money they earn to environmental groups, and being "stewards of God's earth."

"Being a Dolphin Defender teaches them that they get something beyond what they give," says Neil Andre, who organized the group five years ago as an outreach program of Dignity House, a United Church Neighborhood House in St. Louis. "They get satisfaction, self-esteem and self-worth knowing they are accomplishing something for humankind."

They took the name "Dolphin Defenders" because Dolphins defend themselves in a non-violent way by giving "nose-bumps."

Now they learn about wildlife from the wild things they've "adopted": a wolf from the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center and an owl from the Raptor Rehabilitation Center, both in St. Louis; a whale from the Save the Whales Foundation and a lake in St. Louis' Forest Park. They also have a monthly newsletter, "Predators Are Important," to help community members learn about wildlife and other environmental tips. In their most recent project, Defenders raised \$100 from recycling projects in order to recycle approximately 125 old car tires.

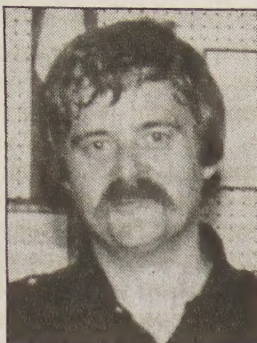
The Defenders meet once a week. A look around their meeting room reveals walls lined with more than 42 awards and commendations from the National Audubon Society, The Better World Society, community leaders and others.

Andre says the program helps the kids "look beyond their own problematic situations, and nurtures social skills that will make them functional productive adults."

Evangelism and Membership Growth

Worship begins around 3,000 feet above sea level for some members of Sherburne UCC in Rutland, Vt. That's how high up they have to go to reach the Peak Restaurant at Killington Ski Resort where a Saturday worship service is held for skiers.

Services began last year with a church



Dolphin Defenders photo

Andre

member who worked at the resort on Sundays and missed being in church. When she suggested a service that she and the skiers could attend, both the management and pastor Larry Winkler said okay.

Church members pitch in to help the mountaintop service by lining up speakers, providing the music and serving as hosts. Services are weekly, Thanksgiving to Easter, though several have been snowed out. Winkler says skiers like the service.

"The tone of the service is not conversion but celebration," he says. "The skiers that come are so awed by the spectacle of the mountain that they just want to give thanks." An offering is collected to pay expenses and to help several community programs for the poor and homeless.

Education

You sure can't judge a program by its name at **Wheat Ridge UCC, Denver**. That's because "S.N.O.T.," a program started by pastor Timothy F. Merrill for teenage members, is a huge success. "S.N.O.T." is short for "Students Need to Talk" and Merrill has them talking about things that matter most to them.

"The kids like the name and the program," he says. "We meet once a month on a Sunday morning for two hours. We talk about their activities at school, issues in their life and in society."

He sends reminder notes to participants several days before the meeting and when they arrive, breakfast is waiting.

Merrill says his goal is to be in touch with the kids and develop an ongoing relationship with them. "The name is gross but it got their attention," he says.

Universal Health Care For All

When the little 2-year-old Leukemia patient was in remission, a bone marrow donor couldn't be found. Now she's no longer in remission and while Larry Evans, pastor of **Heritage UCC, Reston, Va.**, brings comfort to the family, he's concerned about not being able to find a donor.

Last May, church members held a drive to register bone marrow donors and 72 people added their names to the registry. Last month, Evans and local government officials, with the endorsement of U.S. Health Secretary Louis Sullivan, kicked off a two-year drive to register 10,000 African-American donors.

"Every time you look in the registry for a donor, it costs money," says Evans. "Universal health care would help end the exorbitant costs."

News and Notes . . .

From the Pension Boards

Anyone needing the address or phone number of a widowed spouse of a deceased clergy person should contact Donald E. Stumpf at the Pension Boards, 475 Riverside Dr., Suite 1020, New York, N.Y. 10115; (212) 870-2781.

Retired ministers or spouses who are not in the annuity fund and have not been contacted by an annuitant visitor also should contact Stumpf. Annuitant visitors make pastoral calls to talk about finances.

American-born Filipina ordained

KarenFay Ramos-Young is the first ordained American-born Filipina in the UCC. She was ordained last April at her home church, **Hollywood Independent Church, UCC, Los Angeles**, and is currently the associate pastor of Christian education at **Nu'uano Congregational UCC in Honolulu**.

Yearbook released

The Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches 1991, published for the National Council of Churches by Abingdon Press, Nashville, Tenn., is available. The yearbook is the only comprehensive annual source for statistics on religion in the United States and Canada.

Cost: \$23.95. Available in local bookstores or from the NCC, Attn: Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, Room 853, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. For single copies, add \$1.30 for book rate or \$3.50 for first class postage.

Resources

A resource brochure of prayers and scripture readings for **Rural Life Sunday (May 24, 1992)** is available on request from the UC Board for Homeland Ministries. Contact Linda Long at (216) 736-3267.

Parenting in a TV Age, a Media Literacy Workshop Kit from the Center for Media and Values (Los Angeles), provides a step-by-step process to help church leaders help parents learn to analyze the media, what to teach their kids, how to develop their own criteria for what to select and what to reject. The kit is designed for four or more sessions for parents who are concerned about television in the lives of children. Cost: \$21.95. For information, call the center at (310) 559-2944.

America: The Homeless, a three-part behind-the-scenes look at America's homeless and the people "in the trenches" doing outreach ministry. For information, call the UCC Office of Communication, (216) 736-2222.

Retirement planning offered

Do you look forward to retirement with trepidation or joy? The end of full-time employment is not as bad as you might think, nor is it an extended vacation, say the UCC Pension Boards, which offer a series of regional pre-retirement seminars to pension plan members and spouses, aged 50 and over.

In two-day workshops conducted in cooperation with associations and conferences, the Pension Boards bring in staff members and outside experts to talk about financial planning for the retirement years. The workshops give participants a thorough understanding of how each member's UCC pension plan works and how social security benefits affect those living on retirement income. In some situations, local housing experts may speak about options for senior citizens.

Those interested should contact their conference office. The conference schedule for the next few months is: Rocky Mountain, Feb. 21-22; Michigan, March 27-28; Penn West, April 24-25; Penn Northeast and Pennsylvania Southeast, May 7-8; and Maine, Aug. 19-20.

Coming Events

Jubilee! Living Toward the 21st Century, Portland, Ore., May 7-10; sponsored by Jubilee Associates, part of Christians for Justice Action, a recognized UCC special interest group, with support from the Homeland and World Boards and the Office for Church in Society. For information, contact Marie Rietmann, 301 SW Lincoln, #510, Portland, OR 97201, (503) 294-2149 or (503) 326-6563/3386; or James R. Smucker, 7209 Second Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98117, (206) 783-4692.

A Retreat with Madeleine L'Engle, May 15-17 at Kirkridge Retreat Center, Bangor, Pa., 18013. Cost: \$225. **Art of Biblical Storytelling**, June 15-19; **The Spirituality of Thomas Merton**, Aug. 28-30, also at Kirkridge.

For information on these retreats, call (215) 588-1793.

Editor's Note:

SEND NEWS STORIES, PHOTOGRAPHS and OPPOSING VIEWS of 125 words or less to stands taken in a particular article to **Keeping You Posted**, UCC Office of Communication, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115-1100.